

THE REASONS

which

Compelled the States of BOHEMIA
to reject the Archduke FERDINAND &c.
and inforced them to Elect
a new KING.

Together,

WITH THE PROPO-
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motion of the choyce of th' Elector Palatine to bee
King of BOHEMIA, by the States of that King-
dome in their publique Assembly on
the Sixteenth of August, being
the Birth day of the same
Electoꝛ Palatine.

Translated out of the French copies

at. Dort.
Printed by.

George Waters.

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Translated out of French copies

in Latin

George W. ...

1
**VERY CONSIDERABLE
REASONS WHY THE**

Arch-Duke

FERDINAND neither could, nor indeede ought to be
admitted to the gouernment and possession of the
Kingdome of Bohemia, &c.



HEE was not chosen King of *Bohemia* accord-
ing to the accustomed manner, and the
ancient obserued priuiledges of that King-
dome; but rather was neuer chosen at all;
onely would bee admitted and Crowned,
as shall bee cleared in the amplifying of this first, and the
third Article.

HEE attained to this comming in and Coronation
(which was done in the life time of the Emperor *Mathias*)
by sinister meanes, and vnlawfull practises, thorough the
suggestion, and ayde of some vnfaithfull, and disloyall
Members of that Kingdome; corrupted partly by gifts
and promises, and partly by sharpnes of threatnings
wherewith they were attempted by the States for the
time being, and for that purpose assembled. Which ele-
ction (notwithstanding) was made vpon this condition;
that if hee did not punctually obserue his promises, the
States were neither by Oath, nor by any other way obli-
ged vnto him.

Hee did not onely not obserue the Conditions; but di-
 uers wayes directly; and *de facto* contrariet that Oath
 which he had made to the States, and those *Reuerſall let-
 ters*; which hee hath giuen the Prouinces, and (which is
 more) hee did not onely intrude into the gouernment
 of that Kingdome in the life time of the Emperour *Ma-
 thias*; but after his death, as hee hath done while he liued,
 and (indeed much more) declared himselfe an open E-
 nemy there; and all this, to the end, to roote out the true
 Religion in those partes, and to depriue and Frustrate the
 States of that Crowne and the incorporated Countries;
 as of the free Election of a King, so, of their other Priui-
 ledges; and (of purpose) to bring them wholly vnder
 the Spaniſh yoke; whereby hee Forfeited all hee could
 there pretend vnto; after the death of the Emperour *Ma-
 thias*; and so did absolutely dissolue and loose the Oath
 of fidelity giuen him by that Kingdome, and those Pro-
 uinces; as shall hereafter in another more ample decla-
 ration, (not yet published) bee particularly demonſtra-
 ted to the view of all the world; this following expositi-
 on ſeruing in the meane time, for a brieſe information on
 euery point.

For the first reason, it may be vniuerſally knowne, that
 the Bohemian Nation hath alwayes, euer ſince the Coun-
 trey was inhabited, had the free Election of their Prince;
 which from time to time, (Carefull of holding their
 owne due) they haue obserued; as much as in them lay
 that were true to the State of their Countrey, as wil plain-
 ly appeare both by Histories, and by their priuiledges,
 and other rules proper vnto them. And this Free Electi-
 on (their ancient Custome) hath since also bene yielded
 and

and confirmed vnto them, authentically, from Empe-
rours, by their *Golden Bull*, and increase of Priuiledges.
For example, there are yet to bee seene the originals, of
three *Golden Bull*s of the Emperour *Frederick*, dated in
the yeares of our Lord, 1222, 1254, and 1257, by which
he confirmed the Kings, chosen by the States, and saide
expresly: *That the States of that Kingdome, haue power to
choose a King of their owne free wills and that the Roman Em-
perours haue giue their Regall righte to him whom they Ele-
ct*. This acknowledgement and confirmation hath
beene reiterated by diuers other *Golden Bull*s, and Letters
Patentes of the Emperour *Charles the 4.* in the yeares 1348
and 1379, whereby he made a concession vnto them of
the Priuiledges granted by the Emperour *Frederick*,
wherein (besides) is a more ample mention made, that
the *Bohemians* haue free power to elect a King, and it is
agreeably confirmed by the *Golden Bull* of the same Em-
perour (at that time King of *Bohemia*) which hee granted
to the whole Roman Empire. Where speaking of the
Seuen Electors, what belongs to their office in particular,
and what Principallities might fall to the Empire, the
seauen last Chapter hath these words: *This is one of their
principall duties to be vnto, or thow they fall to the Emperour,
his shall bee in the power of the Emperour, in the King then Reig-
ning, to haue the ordering of it, as of a thing lawfully fallen to
him, and the Empire saving alwaies the Priuiledges, Rights
and Statutes of *Bohemia*, touching the free Election of a King;
in case that King dead should leaue no son, or daughter, and saying
also in that same place, the Emperour shall haue power and right to choose
a King of *Bohemia*, according to the tenour of their Priuiled-
ges, and the good and ancient Customes (besides) which they
haue receiued of the Emperours, Kings of the Romans, which*

first

cc by this law and imperiall Edict we have no meaning to derogate
cc from, or to preiudice in any kinde whatsoever; but most religi-
cc ously to protect them, and to cause them to be observed, not onely
cc for the present, but everlastingly for the time to come; in every
cc point and Article agreeing with their true forme and te-
cc nour, &c. as it is more largely expressed in that Golden Bull
given at *Neurenbergh* 1356. and published.

Now howsoever *Charles* the 4.th after he had confirmed
the Bull of the Emperor *Fredrick*, did withall adde some
other clause to the confirmation (which doubtlesse hee
did for the advantage of himselfe and his successors) that
cc is to say, The intent thereof ought to be thus understood; that
cc in case the Issue Male or Female of the direct line Royall should
cc come to faile; that then the Free Election of a King shall bee in
cc the power of the States of *Bohemia* and the Provinces belonging
cc to that Kingdom.

This exposition (notwithstanding) tooke no place, nor was ever observed. First, because it
was directly contrary to anientent Statute and Custome;
and against the meaning of that Bull of the Emperor *Fredrick*.
Secondly, suppose it possible such a Law might
haue beene observed; it could yet extend no further then
to the race of the Emperor *Charles*, as descended from the
House of *Luxemburg*; that is to say, vntill the death of his
two Sonnes, *Venceslaus* and *Sirismund*; who after they had
been Roman Emperors and Kings of *Bohemia*, dyed with
out any lineall Heyre; and left none to succeed but their
Sister *Elizabeth*, married to *Albertus* Archduke of *Austria*;
to whom shee brought a Son called *Radislaus*. After the
decease of this *Radislaus*, the States of *Bohemia* by vertue
of their Freedomes and Priuiledges, elected a King who
was neither of the House of *Luxemburg*, nor of that of *Au-*
stria: namely King *George* of *Karlar*, whome the House of

Austria

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Austria was so farre from not approving of, as on the contrary *Frederick* the 3. the first of that Family, then Emperour of the Romanes, did confirme and ratifie the Priviledges of the Kingdome of *Bohemia* to the said K. *George*; as doth amply appeare by the saide confirmation, Dated, 1459. Thence it may easily bee seene, that the foresaide clause, and condition inserted in the Confirmation of *Charles* the Fourth was vterly abolished; and by that meanes the Kingdome of *Bohemia* is declared Free, and not tyed to any particular race or Family.

And that *Bohemia* hath a Freedome of Election, and is in no kinde a Kingdome hereditary; the following example will justifie: for although King *George* left Sonnes behind him, yet there was not one of them that euer came either to gouerne, or to bee Elected there. But after the Fathers departure, the Bohemians Elected and Crowned *Vladislaus*; of the Family of the Princes of *Lithuania*, Sonne to *Casimir* King of *Polonia*, Anno 1471. On whome the Emperor *Frederick* conferred the Tenures, and confirmed them vnto him; as it is to bee seene at large in the Act for that purpose, 1480. Now where it will be objected that this K. *Vladislaus* by his *Letters patentes* in the fauour of his Daughter *Anne*, (first acknowledging that the States of *Bohemia* meerly of their owne free will had Crowned, and receiued his sonne *Lewijs* for their King) did then ordaine that his Sonne *Lewijs* comming to dye without Issue, the inheritance of the Kingdome should remaine with his Daughter *Anne*; to that objection, this Answer. Since (as hath already beene said) the clause of restraint inserted by *Charles*, is wholly annihilated; and that the States haue had their Election free; (as by examples there hath sufficient testimony been giuen) that is to say, That the house

of *Austria* inherited not the succession of the Kingdome, after the Election of *K. George*; nor even the Sonnes of the same *George* preferred against the choise of *Wladislaw* King of *Polonia*: by the same authority of reason (therefore) it was much lesse in the power & prerogative of *Wladislaw* to ordaine his Daughter heire to the Kingdome, against the priuiledges of the Country; without both the conuocation & the consent of the States, so as (indeed) she could not inherite the Kingdome after her Father but after her Brother: and was Queene then, but as being the Wife of another elected King. That there was no conuocation of the States, it is an unquestionable truth, and it followes necessarily, they gaue not their consent, neither did they ever permit her in any thing effectually to enioy the Government. But after King *Leopold* was fallen in battaile, and that the betoyck Prince *Ferdinand* Archduke of *Austria* had married the Lady *Anne*, that sister of King *Leopold*; the States of *Bohemia* (then) of their owne Free will, and by vertue of their Priuiledges, Elected Archduke *Ferdinand* for their King, 1526. Indeed the King according to custome being once crowned as Soueraigne, the Lady *Anne*, afterwards, was Crowned as his companion, and no other wise. And if then at that time, the Freedome of the States Election will yet be quarellled withall, for King *Ferdinands* Reuerfall letters bee enquired of, they will satisfie for it. They were given at *Vienna* the Thirteenth of December, 1526. And for their better strength the oath hee gaue the States will declare of itselfe.

But there hath very lately beene discovered a strange fact committed vpon those *Reuerfall Letters* of *Ferdinand* the Emperour done without the knowledge, much lesse the consent of the body of the States. The said Letters

hauing

hauing beene copyed in Parchment out of the originall,
 and inserted to the other Priuiledges of the Countrey in
 a booke expressely appointed for that purpose; (and that
 the originall it selfe was placed there with other priuiled-
 ges; and that the said *Reuersall Letters*, themselves, (as it
 is said) were annexed to the Statutes and Ordinances of
 the Country for the space of Nineteene yeares together,
 remaines yet to be seene.) It is now found out that after
 the expiration of those nineteene yeares, that is to say in
 the yeare 1545, some person not yet come into publicke
 knowledge, in the Register of the Countreys customes,
 yppon the margine of those *Reuersall Letters* write these
 wordes, following: *The Letters were rendered his Maiesty by*”
the States of Bohemia, in the generall Assembly of the States of”
the Countrey at the Castle of Prague, on Monday after the Ascen-”
tion of the most blessed Virgin Mary in the yeare 1545, and in”
place of those, there were other Letters given to the said States”
of the Kingdome in the Bohemian tongue, which were likewise”
inserted into this booke in the last Ord. Done at the Castle of”
Prague, the Wednesday after St. Egidius day, 1545.”

Now that this point was in this manner euer effected,
 or that the States in their full Assembly did euer render
 those *Reuersall Letters* to the King, and receiued other Pa-
 tentes in their place, it can no way bee found: For in the
 generall Assembly held the same yeare at the Castle of
 Prague (which at this day remaines quoted in the Regi-
 ster of the Countrey) there is not any mention made
 thereof; no not so much as in the proposition it selfe then
 opened on the part of the King. Neither were the *Des-
 ders Patents* supposed to bee giuen instead of the first as-
 surances, according to that former addition written in the

saide booke; but afterwards included in another. It may
 thence bee easily iudged that the writer of those added
 words (whoseuer he was) did it out of a priuate authori-
 ty, to please some other persons. Thence likewise it may
 very easily bee perceined to what ayme, the corruption
 was directed; namely by this meanes to frustrate and de-
 priue the States for the time to come of the Freedome of
 their Election. As indeed those Patents doe nothing a-
 gree with the first Assurances, saue onely in this, *That the
 States ought to looke to themselves, that the said election of King
 Ferdinand may not derogate nor bee prejudiciall to their Pri-
 uiledges.* But the saide Reuersals haue in them another
 sence directl.y contrary to all the Priuiledges and Free-
 domes of the Countrey, both olde and new, and particu-
 larly in this, that there are againe alledged the inferiours
 both of *Charles the 4th* in his confirmation, and of *Vladis-
 law* for the aduancement of his disposition towards his
 Daughter; which as hath bene said, is long agoe made
 voyde, and was obscured onely in one case alone; the
 States (notwithstanding) hauing alwayes retayned the
 free Election.

Now that this was not done to violate the Priuiledges
 rather then to confirme them, wee referre to the iudge-
 ment of the whole world. The reason why, the States
 haue not receiued perfect knowledge of all these indirec-
 passages vntill now, is, that from time to time they haue
 been concealed by the principall Officers of the land, who
 were Romane Catholiques. For the States in the diuers
 pursuits of their cause, as well so the generall Assemblies
 of the Countrey, as otherwaies, could neuer get so much
 as a hearing of the Priuiledges read; much lesse a posses-
 sion of the writings or coppy of them.

How-

Howsoever, it is euident that the Emperour *Ferdinand* himselfe, did very well iudge and consider that this Kingdome, and the Prouinces incorporate, were not Hereditary, and that those *Letters Patents* could take no place, nor bee of force with Posteritie against the ancient Priuiledges and Statutes. It is euident in this, that the same Emperour called a generall Assembly of the Countrey in the year. 1549. where hee desired of the States of *Bohemia*, that Archduke *Maximilian* his eldest Sonne, might after his death bee receiued for their King. Which the States accorded vnto, to the end that in the life time of his Maiesty, his Sonne might carry the name of King, vpon condition (neuerthelesse) that hee should not be invested in the gouernment during the time of his Father. According to which Condition (and likewise by vertue of certaine interchanged Articles) the Coronation of King *Maximilian* and his wife Queene *Mary*, succeeded not vntill the year 1562.

In like manner *Maximilian* comming to be Emperour presented his eldest Son *Rodolph*, and desired he might be accepted of and Crowned King of *Bohemia* for the future, which the States consented vnto, accepted of him, and declared him then vpon certaine present conditions, and afterwards drew from him his *Letters of Assurance*.

Furthermore, were the Kingdome and the Prouinces incorporate Hereditary to the House of *Austria*, it is to be belieued, that it had bene altogether vnnecessary to seeke to the States by request for the Succession; since vpon the termes of Inheritance euery eldest Sonne comming to suruiue the Father, there must haue disceded a right vnto his owne person for his title to the Crowne, without any intercession: as the Archdukes of *Austria*

themselves doe exemplifie by their owne claimes to their Countreies of inheritance. It may hereunto bee added that from the Acceptation, and declaration of those two Kings *Maximilian* and *Rodolphe* there can no prejudice fall vpon the Freedome of Election, since both of them being the eldest Sonnes of Kinges of *Bohemia*, their successe in all reason might happen to bee the more easie; and yet it was not done without both seeking and obtaining the willing consent of the States. Thence therefore there can no argument be drawne that the States by that Act haue quitted the right of their free Election.

If yet there will bee something inferred thence to the contrary; the proceeding of *Rodolphe* himselfe will confesse that inference an error. For being unmarried, and without Children, it was the *designe of the Archduke Mathias* as eldest Brother to his Imperiall Majesty, to procure himselfe first nominated King of *Bohemia*, the Emperour yet liuing; and by the intercession of his Majesty, that afterwards hee might bee Elected and Crowned according to custome. And in this case where lineall heyres haue fayled, it neuer sufficed the conferring of the succession vpon another, to haue these wordes vsed onely: *Acceptation, Declaration, and Coronation*; but there was alwayes regard had aswell of the one part as the other, to the sauing of the Free Election, which the States haue by vertue of their ancient Priuiledges from *Fredericke* the Emperour and others. As indeede the Emperour *Rodolphe* himselfe also did anew in all indifferent vnderstandings, very authentically confirme and ratifie the same Priuiledges to the States in this point, that his Majesty sought and interceded to them for his Brother the Archduke *Mathias*, that by vertue of their Priuiledges and free-

freedomes, and of their owne bounty, and free will, they would first designe his Brother for King of *Bohemia*, and afterwards Elect him. Accordingly the Archduke *Matthias* observed the same sence, and desired hee might bee Elected after the ordinary custome. It followes that his Majesty the Emperour interceding, and the Archduke being so Elected, they haue both of them very manifestly acknowledged and confirmed that in such a case howsoeuer, (if not otherwise where the right line is extinguished) the States haue a free Election. Which besides the authority it receiues from Priuiledges and Customes of auncient vse, it hath more then sufficiently bene ratified likewise, not onely by a contract passed before *Prague* in the year 1608. between his Imperiall Majesty, the Archduke and the Prouinces; but also by the proposition made on the parte of the same Emperour in the generall Assembly of the States; and by the *Letters of Assurance* from both their Majesties Imperiall and Royall.

Moreover the States of the Reformed Church of the Crowne of *Bohemia*, (after the persecutions they had susteyned) were competently provided for by his Majesty the Emperour *Rodolphe* their King with an *Edict of Pacification* vpon the cause of Religion; and the free exercise thereof, according to the agreement with the generall Assembly of the States, in the year 1608. and as it hath since bene confirmed in 1610. at the request of the Electors of the Empire solicited by the States. And their said Majesties confirmed certain accords passed between those of the Religion of the Gospell, and the Romane Catholiques, as also betweene those of the Religion of the Gospell themselves. And all this for the confirmation, and aduancement of mutuall Amitie and agreement, in

such

such a manner, that in whome soener the least opposition or contradiction that can bee imagined, should be found to bee intended against that *Edict of Pacification*, or the other accords, hee should be proceeded against as a disturber of the publicke quiet.

From these proceedings our people generally did promise themselves that thenceforth they should live in a peaceable condition together, both vnder his Majesty and the succeeding Kings of *Bohemia*, and that euery man might serue God safely and obey the Magistrates. But incontinently vpon it, and since likewise, these promises met with persons of turbulent and wicked dispositions, who, by the suggestion of an euill spirit haue laboured to make the world vnderstand, that nothing could be more contrary, to their mindes then the free election of a King, and the free exercise of Religion. And out of that malevolent nature refused to signe the *Edict of pacification*, and the agreements passed with the matter depending on them which his Imperiall Majesty and other peaceable Romanie Catholike Estates had by example inuited them vnto, but bent themselves with all their might partly by their secret Conspiracies, and Fraudulent practises, and partly by abusing their offices, and by their impudent malice to ouerthrow the whole worke of Peace, and to dispose euen his Majesty himselfe to the consent of this ruine; notwithstanding that presently vpon it in a publicke Assembly of the States they were protested against, that in case the States of the Religion of the Gospell should come to bee yet further molested, the offence should be imputed to them alone, and they should bee proceeded against, as troublers and infringers of the publicke quiet. This caution wrought no regard in them, but on the contrary, they were so farre from it, as euen in the

the life time of the Emperour *Mathias*, it was the principall point of their study to provide themselves for the time to come of such a Lord as their enterprises might expect countenance, and assistance from. And indeed they did so successfully aduance their affaires, that in the year 1617. they procured that Archduke *Ferdinand*, of whose courses all Christendome haue taken notice, that hee was no sooner entred the gouernment of the Countrey then he persecuted those of the Religion, in such a manner, as at last without making of any difference between the condition of person & person, he chased them quite away; and in the pursuite of his inhumanenes, hee caused the bodies of the Dead to bee digged out of their Graues, and exercised such Cruelties vpon them, as might haue considered a very barbarous education to a gentleness of Nature, by beholding, or but by hearing onely of the hatefulness of the Persecution. This Archduke *Ferdinand* was called to *Prague*, adopted by the Emperour *Mathias* for his Sonne, and afterwards by greatnes of threatnings, and by promises, and presents bestowed vpon some disloyall, and treacherous members, and by their Conspiracies with the enemies of the Religion of the Gospell, he was receiued, declared, and Crowned for the King of *Bohemia*, to succeed, but not Elected. For they would by no meanes giue eare to the mouing of an Election during the whole time of the giuing of voyces.

Now touching the other things of passage in this admission, & Coronation; it shalbe spoken of in the second Article. This shall suffice to conclude with, for the first point, that he was not chosen King of *Bohemia* according to the accustomed order, nor the vertue of the ancient obseruation of the Priuiledges, & Statutes of the Countrey.

For the second reason; that is to say, how the admissi-
on and Coronation came to passe; there hath somewhat
already beene spoken, and in what fashion of carriage the
disloyall members were brauely employed, to reach the
end of their pernicious designes. To which this that fol-
lowes likewise offers it selfe. At the very time of the con-
uocation of the Assembly of the States of the Countrey,
the States were by *letters Patentes* forbidden to treat of
any other thing, then the point touching a Successour
to the Crowne, which is a crime not onely contrary to
the auncient obseruation, but opposed also the decree
made in a generall Assembly of the Countrey, *Anno 1610*
where it is expressly, deliuered, that in all the Assemblies
of the States, it shall bee free and lawfull for them; (im-
mediatly after the deliberation of the proposition made
on the part of the King) to see before them the Articles of
the publicke griefes which then ought to be taken into
mature aduice and to be ordered, and applyed remedy
vnto, before the rising of the Assembly. This was the
reason that many of the States made difficulty to appeare
in an Assembly so exorbitant. And those which were
there, gaue their testimonies by their voyces against such
proceeding, as a thing infringing the franchises and pri-
uiledges of the Kingdome, adding that the Prouinces in-
corporate were not called thither: with these (notwith-
standing) it was concluded in the holding of the last As-
sembly of the States; as pretending to haue right in the
giving of their voyces for the Election of a King; hauing
first resolved and accorded with the Prouinces. These
States (I say) were threatened as well by the unfaithfull
members, as by others, and in such a manner, as it was pro-
fessed

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fessed that if any man would undertake to carry his suffrage another way, hee had neede be furnished with two heads, and must looke to be dealt withall as strangely as some others had been not many yeares agoe. And seeing it was impossible to countermine their practises, and to withstand the whole faction of the Romanists; who had fished vp and down to call in such as had little or nothing to loose in the Countrey, that those of the Religion were ouerborne by the plurality of voices: It must then come to this necessitie, that whether they would or no, they were to giue way to the acceptation, and Coronation. Which (neuerthelesse) was not yettled vnto, without conditions. For the Archduke *Ferdinand* gaue the States his *Reuerſall Letters*, among the Articles whereof these are some that follow.

1. That he thanked the States, and would be careful to acknowledge them with gracious words, and Royall beneuolence; in such a measure as they should receive all contentment from his Majesty.

2.
That during the life of the Emperour *Mathias* hee would not inuest himselfe in the Government of the Kingdom, nor would hee put himselfe vpon it, without the knowledge and consent, as well of his Majesty and the principall Officers and Presidents of the Countrey; as of the Councellours of Estate, and of his Auditors Finances, and of the chiefe Lords of the Countrey; of two persons of the commonalty of euery Circuit; of sixe of the Towne of Prague, and of other Townes depuied in the Assembly of the States of the Land.

3.
That if during the life of the Emperour hee shall undertake to enter the Government; in that case the Estates shall no way be held, or bound to render him any obedience or duty of Fidelity.

Now in what fashion *K. Ferdinand* hath made good his Oath, and obserued his *Rouersall Letters*, it is notorious to the whole world; and shall briefly be shewne in the third Article following.

Concerning then the third and last reason; namely why King *Ferdinand* is rejected; and how hee hath depriued himselfe, and made himselfe vncapable of the Acceptation and Coronation; and in summe, of all else depending thereon, which he might pretend vnto :

It is a thing most noted and manifest, that the vnfaithfull members; together with the pernicious sect of the Iesuites, after the Coronation became so insolent, that they did instantly set a foote diuers persecutions, not onely as principally in the Kingdome of *Bohemia*, but also in the principalities of the vpper and lower *Silesia*; and in many places against the States of the Religion of the Gospell, and the free exercise therof; and expressly against the prohibition contained in the *Edict of pacification*; besides this, the Churches of the Religion, some they caused to be blocked up, and some they pull'd downe to the very ground, the persons they cast into Prison, and there held them long. And at last cut off all access and audience betweene his Majesty the Emperour, and the States of *Bohemia*, as also between him and the defendants ordained by the consent of his Majesty, forbad their Assemblies, directly against the meaning of the Law, and condemned them without either accusation or hearing. The Iesuites with much passion of joy writ to Archduke *Leopold* the aduertisement of this Coronation, and put it in Print, confessing & reporting that the Archduke *Ferdinand*, as well before, as at his entrance to the Government of his hereditary Countries, was bound by Oath to affect rather the loosing of blood, and life,

life, then to agree in the least measure that could be about matter of Religion in fauour of the Heretickes, meaning the true belieuing Christians: as it may particularly and at large bee vnderstood in the defences and griefes of this Land which are published.

From these vnlawfull Oppressions it grew to this, by the conspiracies of those false Statesmen, that for a long time they looked after no other subject then warre, & the effusion of blood; Insomuch, as the late Emperour was carried away and suborned by them, to the inuading of this faire Kingdome and the Inhabitants with an Army, which hath destroyed a good part of it, by pillage, fire and sword. Wherein King *Ferdinand* did not onely giue testimony that hee tooke contentment, but (which is more) became himselfe both a Counsaillour, and an executor against the Kingdome: and intruded into the Government thereof, to be inuested before his time, thereby raising his purpose to bee a cause of infinite vsufferable oppressions and calamities: The truth whereof is as cleere as day. For the world can not bee ignorant that he inuested himselfe in the Government while the Emperour *Matthias* was yet liuing; insomuch as against the will of the Emperour hee did both cast, and imprison *Cardinal Klesel* President of the Priuie Councell, and one of whose employment his Majesty receiued seruice in all his Counsailes. Further, in that the saide *Ferdinand* did not onely aduise a Warre against this Kingdome, but also employed his owne Forces, which he had in *Friauill*, to inuade the Land, commaunding them to make spoyle of it and to put the Inhabitants to Fire and Sword.

Item for hauing himselfe in person held an Assembly in the *Marquisat of Moravia*, against the Kingdom of *Boheme*,

where

where hee demanded, both to joyne the Troupes of *Moravia* to those of the Emperour, and their passage through the saide Marquisat; and then indeede, partly by faire wordes, partly by threatnings he perswaded the States of *Moravia* to allow of the passage.

Item for hauing, after the decease of the Emperour, not only taken into his pay and seruice all the Forces, and open enemies of that Kingdome; but also caused all the leuies made before, to bee aduanced; and brought in many thousand Spaniards, and other forces; by meanes whereof horrible Cruelties, and Tyrannies were exercised, by Fire, and Sword, and Sackings: both in *Bohemia*, and *Moravia*; and much greater then in the time of the Emperour *Matthias*; *Insomuch that they spared neither old nor young, men nor women, no not the innocent babes, whereof many of them were in there Mothers bellies: and which is more, in worse then a Barberous fashion digged their bodies out of their Graves, stripped them, and binding their hands and feet together, layde them stark naked in a horrible manner vpon the Altars, and set them at the doores of Churches.*

And though it bee well knowne to the world that he neuer entred into possession of this Kingdome; yet notwithstanding, he hath not forborne by his letters to make choyce of, and to admit for his Lieutenants the aforesaid treacherous Patriots who are the source, and originall cause of all this euill: some of which hee hath yet by his person; who for being perfidious to this Kingdome and for other great considerations were banished, of whome (notwithstaning) hee doth serue himselfe both in his Counsailes and Embassages, manifestting thereby that he doth approoue of all the mischiefes they haue donne euen vntill this present for the abolishing, and cassation of the franchi-

franchises, and Priviledges of the Countrey, and that hee
makes more accompt of such men, then of the whole
Kingdome : by which euery one may easily iudge, what
the Prouinces may expect or hope for of such a Lord.

Especially if wee consider withall the *Contratts and
treaties which haue passed betweene the King of Spaine and
King Ferdinand*, not onely for so much as concerneth the
Kingdome of *Bohemia*, and the incorporated Prouinces
thereof; but chiefly also concerning the free Kingdome
of *Hungarie*, and that this was donne euen then, when he
was neither yet receiued, nor Crowned in any of the two
Kingdomes; which *Treaties* as then were kept secret and
concealed from the Prouinces, but discouered afterwards
and brought to light by a singular, & diuine providence.

In those treaties the Free Election and the Priviledges
(which the said two Kingdomes haue by vertue of that E-
lection) are entirely cut off, and appropriated Heredita-
rily to the King of *Spaine* and his Successors; in such sort
as the King of *Spaine* doth now quit and yeeld his Heredi-
tary right vnto King *Ferdinand*; but with this restriction,
that vpon default of Heyres males of the race of King
Ferdinand, the said two Kingdomes, with the depending
Prouinces, shall fall by right of Succession to the King of
Spaine, his Heyres and Successors: As indeed the saide
Archduke *Ferdinand*, euer since the said contracts were
passed, hath changed the olde style, wherewith the prece-
dent Emperours and Kings of *Boheme* alwayes contented
themselves; for that the Emperours *Ferdinand*, *Maximi-
lian*, and *Rodolphe* did ordinarily write: *Our Kingdomes and
Prouinces Hereditarie*; but the Archduke *Ferdinand* doth
write now in this fashion: *Our Kingdomes Hereditarie and
Prouinces*. By this wee may againe easily iudge, what was
the

the drift of King *Ferdinand*, and why hee would not bee chosen, but onely acknowledged in *Bohemia*; namely to suppress the Free Election, and accordingly to be Lieutenant of the King of *Spaine* in these Countreies, vntill such time as hee had in the end entirely reduced them to the Spanish yoke and seruitude. But if the States had then had any knowledge of the said contracts, doubtlesse they had sufficient cause, both to contradict, and oppose them selues against it. For all men know, that the Kinges of those Kingdomes which are not Hereditary, but subsist by a Free Election, (as hath been formerly prooued touching the Kingdome of *Bohemia*) cannot make any contract with a stranger Prince without the approbation and consent of the States, and all such treaties are in themselves voyde and of none effect. Such and the like treaties might prooue exceeding dangerous to the Empire; for by this meanes the King of *Spaine* would thrust in a foote to the Empire, as King of *Bohemia*, from whence would necessarily follow that he must be Elector of the Empire, by vertue of the Golden Bull of the Emperour *Charles* the 4.th, and so hereafter would affect and pretend also to be King of the *Romanes*, at which all the Spanish practises doe leuell and ayme, which would bee expresse contrary to the Golden Bull, and the Oath of the other Electors; as also against the Ordinances and constitutions of the Empire, and by this meanes the Imperial Crowne would be quite taken away from the *Germane* Nation, and bee made entirely Hereditary as they haue endeauoured, and practised to make the Crowne of *Bohemia*. All which, together with that hath been written by the States of *Bohemia* to the Colledge of Electors lately held at *Frankford*: as also how they protested against the Election of the person

person of King *Ferdinand* to the Crowne of the Kings of the *Romanes*; will plainly appeare by their writings.

Since then in regard hereof the Prouinces haue acknowledged, and plainly seene, that it was most dangerous, and indeed impossible to enter into any treatie with such a Lord, who is not of himselfe, who speakes and writes peaceably, but harboureth warre and bloodshed in his heart; much lesse for the reasons aforesaid receiue him into the Gouvernement, whereof he hath many wayes deprived himselfe: let vs consider the pernicious consequence that this would haue brought with it.

1 First, hereby the said treaties with *Spain* would haue beene confirmed.

2 Secondly, the States could not expect of such a Lord any certainty or assurance in point of Religion or State.

3 And thirdly, without doubt the States must haue payed, not onely their owne but their enemies Forces, which haue exercised so many Cruelties against them, and their good Friends, and haue beene constrained to joyne with their enemies, and March against their owne Friends, which professe their owne Religion.

4 Fourthly, it would giue occasion to our enemies to blaspheme the name of God, and to say, alas *where is now our God?*

5 And fiftly it came to that, that other Potentates, and Princes, of the Religion had neuer giuen any assistance to the said States, if they had found but the least inclination in them to enter into treaty with the Archduke *Ferdinand* and other enemies.

And therefore seeing that for the reasons aforesaid, it hath beene sufficiently proued, that the Archduke *Ferdinand* was neuer Elected King of *Bohemia* by the ordinary

course, and that hee himselfe, hath depriued himselfe, and hath forfeited both the Acceptation and the Coronation, which was conditionally conferred vpon him (as before) by not obseruing either his *Letters of Assurance*, or Oath: As also seeing he hath exercised manifest tyrannies in the Kingdome, and passed contracts with the House of *Spain* without the consent or knowledge of the States: For these reasons, they vnderstand, and finde themselves to bee free from him, and not any way tyed vnto him in what kinde soeuer.

And for the same reasons, agreeable both to diuine and humane right, (with the ayde of the Almighty) they haue taken the Freedome to Elect another King, as shall bee more fully declared to the world in a Manifestation hereafter to bee published.

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A PRO

23
A PROPOSITION

made by the States of *Bohemia*, in their

Assembly at *P R A G U E* vpon the Election of a

King; the 16. of August, 1619. being

the Birth-day of the Prince

Electör Palatine.

Albeit the Nomination of a King of *BOHEMIA*, requires a mature counsell and deliberation; which ought to preceede the nomination; in this point (neuerthelesse) there is not so much difficultie, as in the rejecting of a King; which gaue a beginning to this, and standes in neede both of a good Iustification, and of a great Power, where the nomination hath no neede of those aydes, but but of it selfe followes, after the rejection.

Now therefore since the Rejection (as the thing more importing vs) is already donne; the Nomination will be much the more easie, provided wee stand not vpon such a perfection in the choyse, as the whole world cannot yeeld vs. It behooues vs to set apart all particular passions, and to haue regard (onely) to those reasons which are Fundamentall. For there are pointes requisite, so necessary

to be considered in the Election of a King; as it is not for any good Patriot to giue his aduice for the receiuing of one in whome those thinges required are not to be found. But we may with very good assurance conclude for him, in whome they meete, more than in any other man.

1 As in the first place, it is needfull that in such a person, there be none of these matters to be feared for which King FERDINAND was rejected. That is to say, that hee ought not either to persecute, or aduance any for the respect of Religion, nor to exceede in the dependances of his owne Counsellors, or of strangers; but to ioyne himselfe with the States. He ought not to be opinionatiue, nor giuen to doe thinges of his owne head, but to accommodate the Customes of his House, and his, to the ordinances and liberties of this Crowne.

2 In the second place, it is required, that hee affect the Estates with an acknowledgement of reputation.

3 Thirdly, that in time both of Peace and warre, hee gouerne his Kingdome by his owne presence; worthily and profitably.

4 Fourthly, that the Confederates may receiue no cause of feare from him, either of danger, or damage.

Since

29

Since then there are Five who are inferred into the treatie of this Election; that is to say, the King of DENMARRKE, the Elector PALATINE, the Elector of SAXONIE, the Duke of SAVOY, and the Prince of TRANSILVANIA, it will bee therefore to purpose to consider, that although there bee not any one of any one of these Princes in his owne particular, but is of merite both to bee Praised and recommended; there is among them (notwithstanding) a certaine diuersitie which euery one by himselte may prudently waigh. And forasmuch as it is not permitted vs to iudge liberally of great Princes; in this place (therefore) it shall suffice, without offence to any, briefly to deduce the reasons for which the Elector Palatine ought to bee esteemed very capable of the Crowne of BOHEMIA, and fit to maintaine the present estate of the Kingdome.

For although he be not yet about twenty three; hee is a Prince (neuerthelesse) endued with a great iudgement, bred vp from his Cradle in goodness and vertue: holdes continually about him persons of great quality, as well for the Field, as the State: accustomed to Courtisie; in himselte of very plentifull Hopes: and at this Age hee will better forme himselte to the Customes of the King-

dome, than if hee were more increased in yeares. And God bestowes not wisdom alwayes according to the Age of a man but vpon him that calles to God for it in his feare.

Hee is a Prince, moderate, vertuous and resolute in his Actions; quicke and sharpe in his Discourse, true courteous towards all men; well Languaged; holdes a faire Court, of Earles, Barons, and Gentlemen; Loues and cherishes the Nobilitie: imployes euen men of meane condition in his Seruice, when hee findes desert in them for it; and will let no worthy seruice passe him without his acknowledgement, his Subjects and Countrey (in part the Frontiers of this Kingdome) hee gouernes with Prudence; giues estimation to men of Honour; holdes a well-ordered Councell, frequents the Councell Table in his owne Person; takes exact heede to the opinions, and propositions of his Councellours; giues good cause to haue his owne Iudgement approued, and commended in thinges of importance; inclines willingly to the informations of other men; loues the Common good, and therein takes paines, with zeale, and without feare: beares Compassion to the afflicted; shewes himselfe laborious and resolu'd; is beloued of his Subjects; carries himselfe Peaceably with his neigh-

neighbours, of what Religion soever they be; and for that winnes respect euen of those of different beliefes. For his owne Religion, hee is well affected; yet there is not any in his Countreyes though of another Profession, that findes himselfe disquieted for matter of Conscience or in the exercise of his Religion; so as euery man may with freedome liue vnder him, provided his conuersation bee honest, and good.

There is none that can accuse him either of precipitation, or opinionatiuenes; a thing very remarkable.

Hee is in good correspondence with those of the Houses PALATINE and of BAVIERS; and yet for that reason forsakes nothing either of those rightes, or of those Duties belonging to the generall State of the Countrey.

And howsoeuer hee is a Prince but young, and shewes himselfe courteous, and sweet towards his people; for all that there is neither lightnes, dissolutenes, nor voluptuousnes seene in him; nor any disorder, or excesse at all in his Dyet; nor any Auarice, Prodigalitie, or other thing whatsoeuer, vnagreeable, or contrary to the reputation of a Prince.

For the assistance the Crowne of BOHEMIA may expect

expect from him; it is cleare to every mans vnderstanding, that hee is not onely not in debt; and that of his Reuenue hee can lay something vp, but also that the King of Great BRITAIN is his Father in Law; the King of DENMARKE his neare Ally, and likewise the Elector of BRANDENBURGH: the Prince of ORENGE his Vncle; the Duke of BUVILLON his Ally; the States of the Vnited Provinces of the Low-Countryes his Confederates: the King of SWEDEN, and the Hanse Townes his Friends; and for his Correspondents, the Duke of SAVOY, VENICE, and SWISSERLAND. Hee is in good credit with all the Princes Electors, and other Princes, and States of the Empire, more particularly with those of the Vnion. Hee hath confederacies, and auncient Alliances with FRANCE. The Prince of TRANSILVANIA & High HUNGARIE beares him affection. SAXONIE and BAVIER, are in good tearmes with him. MENTZ; and the neighbour-Countryes doe looke vpon him with Honour and respect. Insomuch as the Crowne of Bohemia by his onely meanes may get the Amitie of all those, which wee doe now seeke with so much labour, and trauaile; and by the same meanes wee may bee conserued, and Fortified against our Enemies; which from any other treated of in the Election

can neither bee expected, nor hoped for.
And since it is a certainty that this Prince would not accept of the Election for ambitious sake, but onely for the Common good; wee may therefore promise our selves that hee will euer continue in the good affection hee hath already shewn towards this Crowne; by the profitable Councils and assistances; which as well in his owne person, as by other wayes (according to the occasion) hee hath made to appeare: when some others, for their particular considerations, have greatly prejudized both the States of the Kingdome of Bohemia, and the Countries, and Prouinces confederate.

Those Prouinces confederate, who are already in good vnderstanding with this Prince, haue to consider, that they cannot ground the like confidence vpon others: (who are too much tyed in respect of the House of Austria) for the receiuing of a succour in time of their neede. And in this case the confederacie might bring them rather prejudice, than benefite; a thing exceedingly importing this Crowne, as may be seene by experience.

Since then those qualities required, are found all to meete in the person of the Prince-Elector-Palatine; and that in those of the other Princes spoken of in this Election (the Prince of Transil-

uania excepted: who hath his eye vpon another
marke) though in themselves of great woorth and
merit: in regard (notwithstanding) of the consti-
tution of our State, there are many abilities wan-
ting, (as may bee easily shewne:) it will be to pur-
pose therefore no longer to deferre the Election.
And so much the rather, because the Crowne of
Bohemia, with the Countreyes confederate (now
after the rejection) will bee more disquieted than
euer, and remayning without a Heade, wee shall
finde no man that will duely vndertake our prote-
ction or Defence.

FINIS.



Since then those duties required, are found
all to meet in the person of the Prince-Elector
Palatine; and that in those of the other Princes
spoken of in this Election (the Prince of Transil-

To the Reader.

The Reader may not expect hereof at this time so exact an impression as the subject requireth: by reason the Copie (out of which it was Printed) was written ouer in hast, and by a stranger: and Printed likewise in hast, the Compositors also strangers. By reason whereof some escapes may haue passed in the Orthographic, the which beeing but Literall, may the more easily bee pardoned, both to the Printer, and the Ouer-seer no ordinary Corrector, Vale.

John Harrison.

